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Northfleet Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1938

BY

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

Northfleet Urban District Council

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Medical Officer of Health.

GRAVESEND:
GRAVESEND AND DARTFORD REPORTER

Northfleet Urban District Council

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

MR. GEORGE GOUGE, J.P., C.C.

MR. JAMES CARLTON

MR. WILLIAM H. HARDY

MR. JAMES HAYNES

MR. FRANK WALTER HUMPHREY

MRS. G. S. LANE

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

All members of the Health Committee, together with the following co-opted Members:—

MESDAMES CARLTON, DENT, A. H. HARDY,
HUMPHREY, HUNTLEY, SMITH, WESTCOTT,
WHITCHELO and WHITE.

Clerk and Solicitor :

MR. F. W. JONES

Assistant Clerk :

MR. W. G. FUTCHER

Medical Officer of Health :

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Maternity and Child Welfare Officer :

JAMES CRAWFORD, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspectors :

G. CUNLIFFE, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., Meat and Food Inspector,
C.A.G.S. (Special)

E. H. C. WADHAMS, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I. Meat and Food Inspector

Health Visitor :

MISS M. P. MULLENDER, S.R.N., S.C.M., Cert. R.S.I.

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF NORTHFLEET.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Northfleet Urban District Council.

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report of the Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the year ended December, 1938.

The contents and arrangement are based on the Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health.

The Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, under Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926, is embodied in this Report.

I am indebted to Mr. Gough, the Vaccination Officer for the Northfleet sub-district, for the Vaccination Report.

I would take this opportunity of thanking the Council for continued interest and support.

Your obedient Servant,
M. F. McDONNELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Northfleet, Kent.
May, 1939.

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ANNUAL REPORT.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (as constituted at 30th June, 1935) acres	...	3,770
Population (Census 1931)	... ..	16,223
(Estimated 1938)	... ..	17,850
Number of Inhabited houses (31st March, 1938)	...	5,040
„ „ New houses erected year ended 31st		
December, 1938	... ..	90
Number of families or separate occupiers (1931)	...	3,723
Rateable value 31st December, 1938	... ..	£105,502
Sum represented by a penny rate (1938)	... ..	£439

PHYSICAL FEATURES, GENERAL CHARACTER AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The District is situated wholly in the County of Kent, some 20 miles from London, and occupies an area of 3,770 acres.

It is bounded on the North side by the River Thames, on the South by the Rural District of Strood and the Rural District of Dartford, on the East by the Borough of Gravesend, and on the West by the Urban District of Swanscombe.

The surface of the District is undulating or hilly. The soil is gravel, sand, Thanet sand, brick earth, alluvial and London clay.

The sub-soil is chalk. This formation underlies practically the whole of the District.

The principal industries are the manufacture of cement and paper, and cable works.

Average numbers of persons employed is as follows :—

A.P.C.M. (Bevan's Works)	... ..	862
Bowater's Paper Mills	... ..	835
Henley's Cable Works	... ..	2,129
Amalgamated Press, Ltd.	... ..	650
Britannia Lead Works	... ..	60
Gravesend Welding & Electrical Engineering Works		45

In the Rural parts, market gardening and general agricultural work is the chief employment.

Extent of Unemployment.

The average weekly number of persons unemployed in the area was 175, which is less than 1% of the population and compares very favourably with similar districts in the Country. As the

number of insured persons actually resident in Northfleet is not available at the local Ministry of Labour Exchange it is not possible to give the percentage of actual workers unemployed.

Average weekly number of persons in receipt of Outdoor Relief during the year ended 31st March, 1939					210
Amount paid in Outdoor Relief year ended 31st March, 1939					£5,913 17s. 9d.
Number of Northfleet persons admitted to the Public Assistance Institutions, during the year ended 31st March, 1939					75

Vital Statistics of the District.

BIRTH RATE. During the year there were 281 births, equivalent to an annual birth rate of 15.7 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This is a decrease of 1.8 per 1,000 on last year.

INFANT MORTALITY. 10 deaths occurred among children under one year of age, which is equivalent to 35.6 per 1,000 births, as against 53 for the whole country.

STILLBIRTHS. Male 5 , Female 1, Total 6. Rate per 1,000 live births, 21.4.

DEATH RATE. The general death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 10.87, which can be considered satisfactory.

*The numbers of live births, stillbirths and deaths are those Registered (but excluding re-registrations) during the calendar year (*i.e.* 1st January—31st December, inclusive) adjusted only for inward and outward transfers. They will differ, therefore, from unadjusted figures compiled locally either for the calendar year or for a period of fifty-two weeks.

*The deaths are classified under the headings given in the Abridged List of Causes, as used in England and Wales and Northern Ireland (see page xxiv of the Manual of the International List of Causes of Death—1931). The attention of Medical Officers is drawn to the “ Rules for the selection of one from two or more jointly stated causes of death ” which appears on page xxviii of the Manual. The classification of some deaths is modified in the light of fuller information obtained from the certifying practitioner in response to special enquiries, the principal subjects of these enquiries being indicated in a table published in the annual reports of the Registrar-General. This possible source of discrepancy between the returns of the Registrar-General and those compiled locally should be borne in mind particularly in regard to the causes of death dealt with in that table.

Live	Legitimate	Total. 273	M. 132	F. 141	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 15.7
	Illegitimate	8	5	3	
Stillbirths	...	6	5	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 20.9
Deaths	...	193	107	86	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10.87

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	0	Nil
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	1	3.4
Total	1	3.4

*General Register Office, Somerset House.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	35.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	35.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	0.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	29
„ Measles (all ages)	...	...	1
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1

S.D. 55.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis) England and Wales, London,
of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates,) 126 Great Towns and 148
and Case-rates for certain Infectious) Smaller Towns.
Diseases in the year 1938.)

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's. and Great Towns Populations including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	Adminis- trative County. Northfleet London	
	Rates per 1,000 Population.				
BIRTHS :—					
Live	15.1	15.0	15.4	13.4	15.7
Still	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.48	0.34
DEATHS :—					
All Causes ...	11.6	11.7	11.0	11.4	10.87
Typhoid and Para- typhoid fevers ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox ...	0.00	—	0.00	—	0.00
Measles ...	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.056
Scarlet fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough...	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00
Diphtheria ...	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00
Influenza ...	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.00
Violence ...	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06	0.16
NOTIFICATIONS :					
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Scarlet fever ...	2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05	1.40
Diphtheria ...	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90	0.16
Enteric fever ...	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.11
Erysipelas ...	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.46	0.22
Pneumonia ...	1.10	1.28	0.98	0.98	0.39
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	53	57	51	57	35.6
Deaths from Diarr- hoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.5	7.8	3.6	13.1	3.5
MATERNAL MORTALITY :—					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.89	) Not available			0.00
Others	2.19				3.5
Total	3.08				3.5
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (<i>i.e.</i> , Live and Still).				
MATERNAL MORTALITY :—					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.86	) Not available			0.00
Others	2.11				3.4
Total	2.97				3.4
NOTIFICATIONS :—					
Puerperal fever ... }	14.42	18.08	12.51	{ 3 53 15 46	10.4
Puerperal pyrexia }					

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Midwives.

This service is under the control of the County Council who have appointed the following as County Midwives:—

Miss W. E. Whitaker, 8 Park Avenue.

Mrs. F. E. Plumb, 8, Park Avenue.

Mrs. L. R. G. Watson, 40, Dover Road.

Other midwife practising in the district:—

Mrs. F. E. Holloway, 43, Mitchell Avenue.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The work at the Centre continues very usefully and efficiently. The average weekly attendance at the Centre has been 99. Up to December 31st, 1938, 2891 children have attended the Centre. The total attendances of children during the year were 5,181. There were 218 new attendances. 3,972 lbs. of dried milk and 676 gallons of liquid milk were distributed free. It is found that young mothers are becoming more aware of the benefits of attending such a Centre and are taking advantage of the facilities offered.

The Centre is open on three days of the week, on two of which the Medical Officer attends with the Health Visitor and on the third the latter attends alone. The Health Visitor, who is a fully trained nurse as well as a certified midwife, also attends the Ante-Natal Clinic.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

Particulars of attendances, amounts of milk distributed free, etc.,
1931-1938.

	Attendances.		Distribution of Milk (free of charge).		
	M. & C.W. Clinic.		Ante-Natal Clinic.		
	Yearly Attendance	Average weekly Attendance	Yearly Attendance	Dried Milk.	Liquid Milk
1931	2,873	55.4	51	2,028 lbs.	Nil
1932	3,272	63.8	65	2,293 lbs.	238 quarts
1933	3,601	69.2	61	2,792 lbs.	Nil
1934	3,640	70.0	30	2,620 lbs.	Nil
1935	4,524	87.0	38	3,500 lbs.	Nil
1936	5,356	103.0	34	3,550 lbs.	Nil
1937	5,941	114.0	64	3,921 lbs.	60 quarts.
1938	5,181	99.6	113	3,972 lbs.	676 gallons

Infant Welfare Centres.

(a)	Number of Centres provided and maintained by the Council	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b)	Number of Centres provided and maintained by Voluntary Associations	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(c)	Total number of attendances at all Centres during the year :—						
	(i) By children under 1 year of age	...				4162	
	(ii) By children between the ages of 1 and 5 years					1019	
(d)	Total number of children who attended at the Centres for the first time during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance, were :—						
	(i) Under 1 year of age	...	...	...		180	
	(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years				...	38	
(e)	Total number of children who attended at the Centres during the year and who, at the end of the year, were :						
	(i) Under 1 year of age	...	...	...		150	
	(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	...	...	...		187	
(f)	Percentage of notified live births represented by the number in (d) (i)	...	...	...	...	67.1	

Ante-Natal Clinic.

(a)	Number of Clinics provided and maintained by the Council	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b)	Number of Clinics provided and maintained by Voluntary Associations	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(c)	Total number of attendances by expectant mothers at all Clinics during the year	...	...	...		118	
(d)	Total number of expectant mothers who attended at the Clinics during the year	...	...	...		32	
(e)	Percentage of total notified births (live and still) represented by the number in (d)	...	...	...	...	11.15	

In January, Dr. W. S. Craig, from the Ministry of Health, visited the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre to survey the services. The following is a copy of his report and my report to the Council :—

“ I am directed by the Minister of Health to state that he has had under consideration the report made by Dr. W. S. Craig, one of the Medical Officers of this Department, after his recent visit to Northfleet to enquire into the Maternity and Child Welfare services in the Urban District and I am to express the Minister's appreciation of the good work carried on by the Council for the welfare of mothers and young children.

It is understood from Dr. Craig's report that the Council are considering arrangements for the treatment of minor ailments and eye cases and I am to request that the Minister may be informed in due course of the Council's decision in these matters.

The Minister is advised that the following matters should also receive early consideration of the Council :—

- (1) The need for ensuring that the health of children from birth to the time they attend school is adequately supervised by means of regular visitation in their homes and by attendance at the centre of an increasing number of children of one to five years of age.
- (2) The need for the greater enlightenment of the women in the district by way of informal talks, lectures and demonstrations by the Medical Officers and Health Visitor and by a more liberal display of informative posters.
- (3) The need for making more widely known the facilities provided at the centre for ante-natal and post-natal supervision and child welfare, as apart from infant welfare.
- (4) The desirability of relieving the Health Visitor of some of the routine clerical work in order to free her for the extensions to the work suggested above.

The Minister would be glad to be informed in due course of the result of the Council's consideration of this latter.

Minor ailments and eye cases.—If the Committee so desire it, special sessions could be held for the treatment of minor ailments.

Regarding eye cases, the Committee have a choice of either handing this over to the County Council, who make a charge of ten shillings per case, or establishing their own clinic. The latter course would, in my opinion, be more desirable and economical.

- (1) Arrangements have been made for the adequate supervision of children of one to five years of age.
- (2 & 3) Arrangements are being made for the provision of informal talks, etc., and the display of informative posters.
I would suggest that the Empire Marketing Board's hoarding should be re-erected on a site situated on The Hill, so that posters and information about ante-natal and post-natal facilities could be displayed to best advantage.
- (4) The Health Visitor's time is at present greatly occupied in keeping records, books, etc., and owing to the increase in numbers attending the clinic it will be necessary to relieve her of this duty. I would suggest that the Public Health Dept., should have the part-time services of a clerk."

The Council decided on the following :—

- (1) That a Minor Ailments and Eye Clinic be established under my control.
- (2) That the notice board be erected on the suggested site.
- (3) That the services of a female clerk be employed at the Clinic.

During the year 158 attendances were made by children under school age at the above Clinic.

Toddlers' Clinic.

As previously reported, the Health Visitor is making regular visits to the homes and every effort is made to persuade the mothers to bring the toddlers periodically to the clinic for examination by the doctor. If the attendances warrant the formation of toddlers' clinics, I recommend that special sessions should be held.

Day Nurseries.

Careful enquiries have been made amongst the married women in the district and the evidence obtained pointed to the fact that very few of these women were engaged in occupations away from home (factory hands, field workers or domestic servants) which would warrant the formation of day nurseries. Enquiries have also been made as to suitable accommodation, but no proper premises are available. The expense involved—rent, rates and taxes; the provision of a trained nurse; feeding the children, etc.; heating and lighting—would be very heavy. Considering these factors, I think that the cost would not be commensurate with the gain to the public health service of the district. In conclusion, I have to state that whilst I am in sympathy with the views expressed in Circular 1550 of the Ministry of Health, I am of the opinion that the need for the formation of day nurseries does not exist in the Northfleet Urban District for the time being.

Nutrition.

Supply of Milk, etc.—Dried milk, cod liver oil, "Virol" and other foods are supplied by the Council to expectant and nursing mothers and to children under school age.

Within reason no restriction is placed on the quantity supplied in any one case and the supply is not limited to any specific period of pregnancy nor to any age of children below school age.

The commodities are supplied free of charge where the income is not in excess of the scale approved some years ago by the Ministry; the scale is as follows:—

No. in Family.	For supply of milk free of cost.	Total income of family after deducting rent.	For a supply of milk at one third cost price.	Total income of family after deducting rent.
----------------	----------------------------------	--	---	--

					Where only one parent alive.			
		s.	d.		s. d.		s. d.	
I	...	9	0	...	10	0	10	0
2	...	18	0	...	20	0	18	0
3	...	25	0	...	28	0	26	0
4	...	32	0	...	36	0	34	0
5	...	38	11	...	44	0	42	0
6	...	46	0	...	52	0	50	0
7	...	52	6	...	60	0	58	0
8	...	59	4	...	68	0	66	0
9	...	66	0	...	76	0	74	0
10	...	72	6	...	84	0	82	0

Liquid milk has not been supplied in recent years, but liquid pasteurised milk is now supplied, at the discretion of the Child Welfare Officer, more particularly to expectant mothers. Orders are issued on local purveyors to deliver milk for such periods as may be deemed necessary or desirable.

Meals.—The Minister of Health has suggested that the Council should consider afresh the question of organising arrangements for the supply of meals to mothers and children.

I am of opinion that the scarcity of cases requiring such assistance in the district does not warrant the organisation of such arrangements.

Finance.—The Minister of Health has stated that in some areas authorities may have hesitated on grounds of financial stringency to develop their services as fully as they might desire.

I believe it is correct to state that the Council has never hesitated to extend its maternity and child welfare service on the ground of economy.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There are no Maternity or Nursing Homes in the area under the control of the Council.

Nursing in the Home.

Through the Northfleet Diamond Jubilee Samaritan Fund, the services of one trained nurse are available for general nursing. The Fund is an entirely voluntary organisation.

Hon. Secretary : Mr. W. P. Grant.

Maternal Mortality.

The County Medical Officer of Health co-operates with me in undertaking any necessary investigations in connection with maternal deaths.

The following arrangements have been made by the Council :—

- (1) Difficult cases of labour are admitted to the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital.
- (2) Cases of Puerperal Sepsis are admitted to the King Edward Hospital, Dartford.
- (3) Consultant Gynecologist available if required.
- (4) Ante-natal and other clinics provided by the Council.

These are sufficient for the needs of the district.

ANTE-NATAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANT.—The Council have established an ante-natal clinic but attendances, despite every encouragement, do not reach the standard which the service deserves.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Officer, where necessary, arranges for the admission of cases to hospital.

POST NATAL SERVICES.—In the course of her duties the Health Visitor advises any mother who is not progressing satisfactorily to attend for post natal examination.

Such cases are examined at the ante-natal session and the number does not warrant the institution of separate sessions.

Ancillary Services :—

HOME HELPS.—In our opinion the nature of the population of your district does not warrant the establishment of a service of home helps.

DENTAL TREATMENT.—It will be remembered that the Council have entered into an agreement with the Kent Education Committee for the utilisation of their dental service for the treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and children under school age.

RECORDS.—The records maintained in relation to the Council's maternity and child welfare services are satisfactory in every respect and are at the disposal of any medical practitioner who may desire to consult them with reference to any particular case."

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health, one whole time (M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.).

The other duties of the M.O.H. are as follows :—(1) Medical Superintendent Strood Isolation Hospital. (2) District Medical Officer for Northfleet District. (3) Public Vaccinator for Northfleet. (4) Medical Officer of Health, Strood Rural District.

Maternity and Child Welfare Officer :

James Crawford, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspectors—Two.

Chief Sanitary Inspector holds the Royal Sanitary Institute's Certificates as Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods. Holds Home Office Special Certificate as Instructor in Air Raid Precautions.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—Certified Sanitary Inspector by examination of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board. Holds Royal Sanitary Institute's Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

The Sanitary Inspectors also carry out the following duties :—

Administration and supervision of the house refuse collection and disposal, street cleansing and gully emptying services.

Health Visitor : Miss M. P. Mullender, S.R.N., S.C.M. Holds Royal Sanitary Institute's Certificate as Health Visitor.

Children Act, 1908, Part 1—Section 2 (a) of the Local Government Act, 1929.

The Health Visitor visits the children regularly and keeps the requisite register. At present there are four names on the register. All the homes have been found satisfactory.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The ambulance facilities are adequate for the needs of the district.

All cases of infectious disease are removed in ambulances maintained in connection with the Strood Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital, to which Northfleet patients are admitted.

Non-infectious cases and accident cases are removed by the St. John Ambulance Brigades of Northfleet and Gravesend.

To my knowledge, no undue delay has occurred during the year in the removal of persons by ambulance.

To obtain an ambulance, application should be made to :—
St. John Ambulance Brigade, Grove House, Grove Road, Northfleet.
Telephone—Gravesend 1520.

or

Secretary, S.J.A.B., 17, Robinia Avenue, Northfleet.
Telephone—Gravesend 854.

Relieving Officer.

Miss K. C. Casey, Council Offices, Northfleet.
Telephone—Gravesend 1274.

Registrar of Births and Deaths and Vaccination Officer.
D. A. Gough, 36, Springhead Road, Northfleet.

School Clinic.

West Kent House, 5, Station Road, Northfleet.
General Clinic—Saturdays at 9.30 a.m.

Cases of defective teeth, and vision and diseases or defects of the nose and throat, attend by appointment.

Mental Welfare.

Information on matters of mental welfare can be obtained from the Kent Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare, 70, King Street, Maidstone (Telephone 3889).

Blind Persons.

Information on matters affecting the blind, or those threatened with blindness, can be obtained from the Secretary of the Kent County Association for the Blind, 15, Ashford Road, Maidstone (Telephone 3717).

Hospitals.

GRAVESEND AND NORTH KENT HOSPITAL, GRAVESEND, serves the District, and contains 109 beds and 9 cots.

Day and Time of Attendance for Registration at Out-Patient Department.

Monday	10.30 a.m.	...	Ear, Nose and Throat.
	2.0 p.m.	...	Fracture Clinic.
Tuesday	9.0 a.m.	...	General Surgical.
	2.45 p.m.	...	Ante-Natal and Gynaecological.
Wednesday 1st and 3rd	10.0 a.m.	...	Fracture Clinic.
	1.30 p.m.	...	Orthopaedic.
Thursday	8.30 a.m.	...	Dental.
	8.30 a.m.	...	Ophthalmic.
Friday	8.30 a.m.	...	Dental
	10.30 a.m.	...	Fracture Clinic.
	11.45 a.m.	...	Massage and Electro-Medical.
	12 noon	...	C.O. 2 Clinic.
Saturday	10.30 a.m.	...	Medical Out-patients.

MEDWAY INSTITUTION, CHATHAM. This Institution has the following number of beds:—Tuberculosis, 38; children (including 12 maternity cots), 24; maternity, 12; general, 409—total, 483.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INSTITUTION, GRAVESEND. Has 72 beds, including two for maternity cases.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, NEW ROAD, ROCHESTER. This is a Voluntary General Hospital, and serves a large area with a population of over 200,000.

Monday	9.0 a.m.	...	General Out-patients.
	9.0 a.m.	...	Dental.
	1.30 p.m.	...	Medical.
Tuesday	9.0 a.m.	...	General Out-patients.
	10.30 a.m.	...	Ear, Nose and Throat.
	1.30 p.m.	...	Medical and Surgical.
Wednesday	9.0 a.m.	...	General Out-patients.
	1.30 p.m.	...	Eyes.
Thursday	9.0 a.m.	...	General Out-patients.
	9.0 a.m.	...	Dental.
	10.0 a.m.	...	Orthopaedic.
	1.30 p.m.	...	Medical.
Friday	9.0 a.m.	...	General Out-patients.
	1.30 p.m.	...	Surgical and Medical.
	2.30 p.m.	...	Children.

KING EDWARD HOSPITAL, DARTFORD. No. of beds, 639; maternity, 6; tuberculosis, 20.

TUBERCULOSIS. The treatment of Tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council, and suitable cases from this district are admitted to their sanatoria as occasion demands. There is no sanatorium for Tuberculosis situated in the district.

Hospital and other forms of gratuitous Medical Relief are utilized to the utmost extent in the District.

Isolation Hospital.

The Strood Isolation Hospital occupies an area of six acres and consists of four blocks—three brick and one corrugated iron. These blocks are 40 feet from each other and from the boundary fence. There are six large and five small wards, and they contain 36 beds (allowing 144 sq. feet of floor per bed).

The administrative staff consists of a Matron, a Staff Nurse, and four Nurses. Domestic Staff is four women and one man.

The other offices are a hand laundry, which is sufficient for the wants of the Hospital; a disinfection station contains a Thresh Disinfector and garage for two Motor Ambulances.

Sewage Disposal.—Administration Block and Wards to Cesspool.

Heating is provided for by fires in each Ward. Lighting by electricity, and water is supplied by the Higham and Hundred of Hoo Water Co.

The accommodation for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric is sufficient for the wants of the District.

Details of Wards.

The available accommodation is as follows:—

		<i>Dimensions.</i>		<i>Floor Space.</i>
		<i>Length.</i>	<i>Breadth.</i>	<i>Approx.</i>
Diphtheria Block	Male	26' 4"	23' 6"	624 sq. ft.
	Female	26' 4"	23' 6"	624 „
	4 Small	12' 6"	11' 6"	576 „
Scarlet Fever Block	Male	26' 4"	23' 6"	624 „
	Female	26' 4"	23' 6"	624 „
	4 Small	12' 6"	11' 6"	576 „
Enteric Block	Male	29' 10"	19' 6"	580 „
	Female	29' 10"	19' 6"	580 „
	3 Small	13' 0"	9' 3"	363 „

This gives us a total floor space of 5,171 square feet or accommodation for 36 patients allowing each bed 144 square feet of floor space.

Following the adjustment of boundaries, the population of the combined districts served by the hospital will be less than 36,000. This gives us the correct number of beds as laid down by the Ministry of Health, *i.e.*, 1 per 1,000 of population.

Sanitary Districts from which patients are admitted :—

Name of District.	Population (1938).
Strood Rural 	17,650
Northfleet Urban ...	17,850
	35,500

The next Table shows the number of cases of each disease treated in the Hospital for the past eight years :—(Northfleet)

	1931		1932		1933		1934		1935		1936		1937		1938	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	6	...	2	...	7	...	15	...	10	...	18	...	14	...	7	...
Diphtheria	4	...	4	1	5	1	4	...	3	1	...	...	3	...	2	...
Typhoid	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
	10	Nil.	6	1	12	1	20	Nil.	13	1	18	Nil	19	1	11	Nil

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following is a list of the diseases which have to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health :—

(1) Small-pox. (2) Scarlet Fever. (3) Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup. (4) Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid). (5) Pneumonia. (6) Cholera. (7) Plague. (8) Cerebro-spinal Fever. (9) Acute Poliomyelitis. (10) Acute Polioencephalitis. (11) Encephalitis Lethargica. (12) Typhus Fever. (13) Relapsing Fever. (14) Dysentery. (15) Ophthalmia Neonatorum. (16) Puerperal Pyrexia (17) Erysipelas. (18) Tuberculosis, primary notifications only. Respiratory, other forms. (19) Malaria (believed to be contracted in this country, believed to be contracted abroad, induced in institutions).

Infectious Disease.

Cases of infectious disease which cannot be properly isolated at home are removed to the Strood Isolation Hospital under an agreement which the Council has with that Institution. This arrangement continues to prove most satisfactory, both from the point of economy and efficiency. Prompt removal of patients is always carried out by means of motor ambulances.

Table showing the numbers of cases and deaths from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever since 1931 :—

	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Enteric Fever	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1931	33	Nil	25	1	Nil	Nil
1932	22	1	13	6	Nil	Nil
1933	32	Nil	11	4	Nil	Nil
1934	71	Nil	13	Nil	Nil	Nil.
1935	44	Nil	12	1	1	Nil
1936	39	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1937	23	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
1938	25	Nil	3	Nil	2	Nil
Total	289	1	80	12	3	Nil

Scarlet Fever.

Number of cases notified	...	25
Number of deaths	...	Nil.
Case fatality per cent.	...	Nil.
Number of cases removed to Hospital		7
Percentage of cases removed	...	28%

Diphtheria.

Number of cases notified	...	3
Number of deaths	...	Nil.
Case fatality per cent.	...	Nil.
Number of cases removed to Hospital		2
Percentage of cases removed	...	67%

Diphtheria Immunisation.

A scheme for diphtheria immunisation was adopted during the year.

As to the efficacy of immunisation there can be no doubt. Active immunisation against diphtheria has been practised in this country and in America since the War and has definitely passed the experimental stage. Parents can be assured that their children, if successfully immunised and post Schick tested, will not contract the disease under normal circumstances even though exposed to it.

Active immunisation is the only reliable safeguard against the severe type of diphtheria which is prevalent in this country. Whereas in the ordinary form of diphtheria early administration of anti-toxin to the patient can be relied upon to neutralise the poison, in the graver type anti-toxin fails to give the same favourable results. The wise parent, therefore, will not hesitate to do his duty to his child and will follow the example of the doctors themselves, who take good care to see that their own children are immunised. The foolish parent, however, will wait until his child contracts the disease and will then experience the remorse of knowing that but for his parental neglect the serious illness of his child, followed, perhaps, by complications and even death, could easily have been prevented—not to speak of the needless expense which his indifference has caused his fellow-ratepayers in maintaining his child in hospital (approximately £25).

A comprehensive scheme for the diphtheria immunisation of children in the town was approved by the Health Committee and launched in 1938. The co-operation of Medical Practitioners in the town was obtained, and immunising and testing material forwarded to them free on request. Leaflets were widely distributed, requesting parents to visit their own doctor, or if unable to afford a doctor, to apply to the Health Department.

Enteric Fever.

Number of cases notified	.....	2
Number of deaths	.....	Nil.
Case fatality per cent.	.....	Nil.
Number of cases removed to Hospital		2
Percentage of cases removed	.....	100%

Two cases were notified during the year. One of these proved, after observation, to be negative. The other case had just returned from a holiday on the Continent, and it is obvious that he caught the disease there.

Several notifications concerning contacts of Enteric cases were received from the Port of London Sanitary Authority and from neighbouring authorities. All contacts were kept under observation by means of daily visits during the incubation period.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Three cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified.

An arrangement has been made by means of which cases of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia, which cannot be properly isolated or attended to at home, are admitted to the King Edward Avenue Hospital, Dartford.

The following letter was received from the County Medical Officer of Health and copies were circulated to all medical practitioners in the district:—

“ As you are aware, puerperal fever as such, is no longer a notifiable disease, and any cases of this disease will, under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, now be notifiable as puerperal pyrexia.

In view of the fact that all cases of puerperal pyrexia must be regarded as being due to infection until proved to the contrary, it is very important that they be investigated as soon as possible after onset.

I am endeavouring to formulate a scheme whereby prompt and effective action may be taken in every case, but I realise that the full benefit of the arrangements may be lost unless there is close co-operation between the Medical Practitioner, the Medical Officer of Health and my Department.

Frequently there is delay on the part of the Medical Practitioners in notifying cases, and it would be helpful if you would draw the attention of the doctors in your district to their responsibility in this direction.

Immediately you receive a notification of a case of puerperal pyrexia, I should be obliged if you would kindly arrange for the following swabs to be taken and forwarded to the County Pathological Laboratories:—

- (a) From the Cervix and Throat of the patient.
- (b) From the Throats of the Midwife and any other persons who may have been in contact with the patient.

When a case has been established as being one of puerperal infection, the isolation of the organism from the blood of the patient would provide valuable information. The results of these investigations may assist me in tracing the possible path of infection and so enable the necessary steps to be taken to prevent any further spread of infection.

I appreciate that the above procedure may give you a little trouble but in view of the grave results which may accrue if the matter is not properly and promptly dealt with, I would ask your co-operation in obtaining swabs in these cases and forwarding them as soon as possible."

Smallpox.

No cases were notified during the year. A number of cases occurred in an adjoining district, in consequence of which several contacts were found to be resident in Northfleet. The danger of the disease spreading into the district was great, owing to the intimate contact between the two areas.

The safety measures taken included the making of Chickenpox notifiable for a period of three months, and the vaccination of contacts and schoolchildren, some 323 adults and 1,636 children being vaccinated by the Public Vaccinator during this period. It is interesting to report that the measures taken were successful, and that no case occurred in Northfleet.

The Council have an arrangement with the Hollingbourn R.D. Council, whereby cases of Smallpox occurring in Northfleet would be admitted to the Smallpox Hospital of that authority.

Tuberculosis Dispensary Service.

The services of the tuberculosis officers are available for the purpose of consultation in all cases receiving domiciliary treatment, and, at the request of the medical attendant, a certain number of patients are kept under the supervision of the tuberculosis officers.

There are twenty-two dispensaries in the County. Particulars as to the tuberculosis officer in charge, the address of the dispensary and the hours of attendance are given below. Information is also given as to the additional area allocated to each tuberculosis officer for visitation purposes :—

District No. 1.—Population, approx., 226,588.

(Tuberculosis Officer in Charge, WILLIAM BEARE MARTIN, M.R.C.S.(Eng.),
I.R.C.P.(Lond.), D.P.H.)

	<i>Address.</i>	<i>Day and Time of Opening.</i>	<i>Additional Area for Domiciliary Visitation.</i>
DARTFORD (Tel. No. 3378)	41 Overy Street	Monday, 1.30-3.30 p.m. Thursday, 5.30-6.30 p.m.	Dartford R., Crayford, Swanscombe, Bexley,
Erith	65 Bexley Road	Monday, 5.0-6.0 p.m. Thursday, 2.0-4.0 p.m.	Northfleet and part of Strood R.
Gravesend	22 Cobham Street	Wednesday, 1.0-3.0 p.m.	

District No. 2.—Population, approx. 181,214.

(Tuberculosis Officer in Charge, CHARLES ROPER, B.A.(Camb.), M.D., B.C., D.P.H.)

ROCHESTER (Tel. No. Chatham 2182)	13 New Road	Friday, 9.30-10.30 a.m. Tuesday, 2.0-3.0 p.m. and 5.0-6.0 p.m.	Hoo R., part of Strood R. Chatham, N.E. fringe of Malling R., N.W. fringe of Hollingbourn R., W. quarter of Milton R., Queenborough and Sheppey.
Gillingham	228 Nelson Road	Tuesday, 9.30-10.30 a.m. Friday, 2.0-3.0 p.m. and 4.0-5.0 p.m.	
Sheerness	Granville Villa, Granville Road	Thursday, 11.0 a.m. 1.0 p.m.	

Venereal Diseases.

Amendments have been made in the times of holding the following clinics and they are now as follows :—

GRAVESEND—22, COBHAM STREET.

DAYS AND TIMES OF CONSULTATION.

	<i>Men</i>				<i>Women</i>			
Tuesday	11	a.m.	—	1	p.m.	1	p.m.	— 2.15 p.m.
Thursday	5	p.m.	—	7	p.m.	3	p.m.	— 4.30 p.m.

DAYS AND HOURS FOR IRRIGATION.

	<i>Men</i>					<i>Women</i>			
Monday	6	p.m.	—	7	p.m.	and	9 a.m.	— 12 noon	
Tuesday	11	a.m.	—	1	p.m.		1 p.m.	— 5 p.m.	
	and 6	p.m.	—	7	p.m.		1 p.m.	— 2.15 p.m.	
Wednesday	6	p.m.	—	7	p.m.		9 a.m.	— 11.30 a.m.	
Thursday	5	p.m.	—	7	p.m.		3 p.m.	— 4.30 p.m.	
Friday	6	p.m.	—	7	p.m.		9 a.m.	— 12 noon	
						and	1 p.m.	— 5 p.m.	
Saturday	1	p.m.	—	2	p.m.		9 a.m.	— 11.30 a.m.	

ROCHESTER—36, NEW ROAD.

DAYS AND TIMES OF CONSULTATION.

	<i>Men</i>				<i>Women</i>			
Tuesday	3	p.m.	—	7	p.m.	3	p.m.	— 6.30 p.m.
Thursday	11	a.m.	—	2	p.m.	11	a.m.	— 2 p.m.

DAYS AND HOURS FOR IRRIGATION.

	<i>Men</i>					<i>Women</i>			
Monday	10	a.m.	—	1	p.m.		9 a.m.	— 12 noon	
	2	p.m.	—	3	p.m.		1 p.m.	— 4 p.m.	
	and 5.30	p.m.	—	8	p.m.		1 p.m.	— 6.30 p.m.	
Tuesday	3	p.m.	—	7	p.m.				
Wednesday	10	a.m.	—	1	p.m.		9 a.m.	— 12 noon	
	2	p.m.	—	3	p.m.		1 p.m.	— 4 p.m.	
	and 5.30	p.m.	—	8	p.m.				
Thursday	11	a.m.	—	2	p.m.		9 a.m.	— 2 p.m.	
	5.30	p.m.	—	8	p.m.		2 p.m.	— 4 p.m.	
Friday	10	a.m.	—	1	p.m.		9 a.m.	— 12 noon	
	2	p.m.	—	3	p.m.		1 p.m.	— 4 p.m.	
	and 7.30	p.m.	—	8.30	p.m.				
Saturday	10	a.m.	—	1	p.m.		9 a.m.	— 12 noon	

Treatment of Crippled Children.

The county scheme for the treatment of crippled children includes the provision of eighty beds at the Alexandra Hospital at Swanley, not less than forty-eight being for tuberculous cripples and not more than thirty-two for patients suffering from crippling defects due to other causes. For those children who are of school age education is provided. The whole of these beds are now occupied by Kent patients.

In addition, the following three hospitals have provided a limited number of beds for patients who do not require prolonged institutional treatment, viz. :—

- (a) West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone.
- (b) Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury.
- (c) King Edward Avenue Hospital, Dartford.

These three hospitals have each established a properly equipped orthopaedic out-patient department, and a complete list of out-patient clinics is set out below :—

Address.	Day and time of Opening.	Orthopaedic Surgeon Attends.	Name of Surgeon.
King Edward Avenue Hospital, Dartford.	First Tuesday in each month at 4.0 p.m., and third Tuesday in each month at 2.30 p.m.	At each opening.	H. E. Batten, Esq., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
*Tuberculosis Dispensary, 41, Overy Street, Dartford.	Ditto. each month at 3.0 p.m.	Ditto.	Ditto.

*For tuberculous cripples only.
Voluntary Committees of ladies interested in the work, assist at the Ashford, Broadstairs, Sevenoaks and Sheerness Clinics.

Necessary surgical appliances are provided for patients on the recommendation of the orthopaedic surgeons, and X-ray films are taken at various approved institutions. Cases arising for electrical treatment, massage, exercise, etc., receive daily treatment, where necessary, at certain of the clinics, at St. Mary's Convalescent Home, Birchington, or at the homes of the children.

The parents of patients are asked to contribute towards the cost of institutional treatment and surgical appliances, in accordance with their means.

Travelling expenses of patients are met by the Kent County Council in necessitous cases.

The above arrangements apply to: —

- (i) All crippled children under five years of age living in the area in which the County Council is responsible for maternity and child welfare.
- (ii) All children attending schools of the Kent Education Committee.
- (iii) All tuberculous cripples up to sixteen years of age.
- (iv) Children (under five years of age or attending elementary schools) in the following autonomous districts, the Councils of which have arranged to participate in the County scheme :—

Boroughs of Faversham, Gravesend, Margate, Dartford.
 Urban Districts of Ashford, Bexley, Crayford, Milton
 and Sittingbourne, Northfleet, Sevenoaks, Sheerness.
 Rural Districts of Dartford, Milton, Tonbridge.

Cancer.

The number of deaths caused by Cancer during the year under review was 29. Most of the cases occurred amongst elderly folk and no undue prevalence in any particular organ was noted. It was not deemed necessary to advise the Council to take any action to improve the facilities for health instruction, diagnosis or treatment, such as those outlined in Circular 1136 of the 31st July, 1930.

British Empire Cancer Campaign.

The British Empire Cancer Campaign has formed a Committee to stimulate the education of the public on matters concerning cancer—particularly the early symptoms of the accessible cancers such as the breast, uterus, tongue, etc.

It is considered that the best way of doing this is to form panels of Local Practitioners who will give lectures in their respective districts, for which they will receive a small honorarium. The objects of such lectures will be :—

1. To diminish the present very widespread fear of the disease and
2. To convince people of the importance of early diagnosis and to persuade them to seek medical advice at an early stage of the disease.

Pathological and Bacteriological Specimens.

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are examined free of charge at the County Laboratory at Maidstone. Full use has been made of these facilities, which are most satisfactory.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied free to Medical Practitioners in the District.

The following are the numbers of the specimens submitted from this district :—

Sputa	...	...	59	Serum	...	...	3
Swabs	...	...	74	Others	...	...	10

DICK AND SCHICK TEST.

No use has been made of either of these Tests during the year.

Verminous Persons.

Facilities for the cleansing and disinfection of persons are available at the Public Assistance Institution at Gravesend.

Disinfection.

All bedding and articles of clothing from houses where cases of infectious disease have occurred are promptly removed to a steam disinfector belonging to the Council. Disinfectants are freely supplied and the room occupied by the patient is disinfected by Formalin Vapour.

Vaccination.

The percentage of babies vaccinated remains high—it is more than 60% of the babies born—and no babies have been vaccinated by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-pox Preventative Regulations,) 1917, during the year.

I am indebted to Mr. Gough, the Vaccination Officer for the sub-division of Northfleet, for the following report:—

NORTHFLEET DISTRICT.

VACCINATION—YEARS 1923-1938.

I beg to submit my Annual Vaccination Report for the Northfleet District.

It will be of interest to note that over a period of fifteen years, an average of 62% of babies born were vaccinated, approximately 50% of these by yourself as Public Vaccinator for the District.

There has been no increase in the case of parents who object to the vaccination of babies, and Statutory Declarations made in this respect, remain at 32% of the total births registered.

The high percentage of babies vaccinated in your district is therefore maintained.

In addition to the vaccination of babies, as shewn in my statement, the following vaccinations and re-vaccinations were performed by you during the year covered in your report:—

Persons other than children	.....	.....	323
Children over twelve months of age	.....	.....	1,487
			<hr/>
Total	.....	.....	1,810
			<hr/>

Northfleet District.

Vaccination Return for the Years 1923-1938.

Year.	Births Registered.	Vaccinated by Public Vaccinator.	Vaccinated by Medical Practitioners	Statutory Declarations made against Vaccination	Insusceptibility to Vaccination	Removed from District	Died before Vaccination.	Total.
1923	427	189	84	133	2	10	9	427
1924	447	228	69	124	1	9	16	447
1925	455	219	64	138	1	10	23	455
1926	418	195	73	127	—	6	17	418
1927	417	190	75	128	2	3	19	417
1928	418	191	55	150	1	6	15	418
1929	408	196	64	129	1	4	14	408
1930	353	170	49	110	2	8	14	353
1931	369	174	67	115	1	2	10	369
1932	346	161	43	114	3	5	20	346
1933	409	219	65	106	1	9	9	409
1934	396	194	48	127	—	10	17	396
1935	332	145	38	124	—	18	7	332
1936	284	96	46	124	3	4	11	284
1937	262	116	37	90	—	9	10	262
1938	250	124	25	86	—	7	8	250
Totals	5991	2807	902	1925	18	120	219	5991

Percentage Vaccinated and Exempted of Births Registered.

Year.	Total Percentage Vaccinated.	Percentage Vaccinated by Public Vaccinator.	Percentage Vaccinated by Medical Practitioners	Percentage of Statutory Declarations
1923	64%	45%	19%	31%
1924	67%	51%	16%	28%
1925	62%	48%	14%	30%
1926	64%	47%	17%	30%
1927	64%	46%	18%	30%
1928	59%	46%	13%	36%
1929	64%	48%	16%	31%
1930	62%	48%	14%	31%
1931	65%	47%	18%	31%
1932	59%	47%	12%	33%
1933	70%	54%	16%	26%
1934	62%	50%	12%	32%
1935	55%	44%	11%	37%
1936	50%	34%	16%	43%
1937	58%	44%	14%	34%
1938	60%	50%	10%	34%
Average	62%	47%	15%	32%

D. A. GOUGH,

Vaccination Officer, Northfleet, Kent.

April, 1939.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1938.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths *
Small-pox	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	25	7	Nil.
Diphtheria	3	2	Nil.
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	2	2	Nil.
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	Nil.
Pneumonia	8	Nil.	14
Erysipelas	5	1	Nil.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	3
Totals	47	15	17

*R.G. Returns.

	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 3 years.	3 and under 4 years.	4 and under 5 years.	5 and under 7 years.	7 and under 10 years.	10 and under 15 years.	15 and under 20 years.	20 and under 35 years.	35 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and over.	Totals.
Diphtheria	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Scarlet Fever...	...	1	2	...	2	6	3	3	4	2	1	1	...	25
Erysipelas	1	4	...	5
Pneumonia	1	...	...	1	2	1	2	1	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	...	...	3
Pulmonary M.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	3	2	...	11
Tuberculosis F.	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	4
Non-Pulm'y M.	0
Tuberculosis F.	1	1	...	...	...	...	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0
Enteric Fever...	1	1	...	...	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	...	...	...	1
Totals	0	3	2	0	2	9	4	4	9	12	8	10	1	64

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.†			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15—25	3	1	...	1	2	...	...	...
25—35	3	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
35—45	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
45—55	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 up	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	11	4	0	2	5	1	0	0

†R.G. Returns.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925,
Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action was taken during 1938.

Statement of Particulars appearing in the Register of Notifications
of cases of Tuberculosis, for the Year ended the 31st day of
December, 1938.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non- Pulmonary Total
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
(a) Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the commencement of the Year...	36	27	63	12	7	19	82
(b) Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the Year	44	29	73	10	9	19	92

Non-Notifiable Acute Infections.

The district has been comparatively free from Influenza, and the number of deaths due to this disease negligible. Rabies and anthrax were absent.

Foot and Mouth Disease.

No outbreaks were reported during the year.

Causes of Death in Northfleet Urban District, 1938.

CAUSES OF DEATH			M.	F.
All Causes	107	86		
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ... ..	...	...
2 Measles ... ..	...	1		
3 Scarlet fever ... ..	...	...
4 Whooping cough ... ..	...	...
5 Diphtheria ... ..	...	...
6 Influenza	3	...		
7 Encephalitis lethargica	3	...		
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	1	...		
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	5	1		
10 Other Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...
11 Syphilis ... ..	...	...
12 General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis ... ..	...	...
13 Cancer	16	13		
14 Diabetes	0	1		
15 Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	4	7		
16 Heart disease	21	26		
17 Aneurysm ... ..	...	...
18 Other circulatory diseases	4	5		
19 Bronchitis	9	4		
20 Pneumonia	9	5		
21 Other respiratory diseases ... ..	..	2		
22 Peptic ulcer	1	...		
23 Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ... ..	...	1		
24 Appendicitis ... ..	...	...
25 Cirrhosis of liver	1	...		
26 Other diseases of liver, etc.	1	1		
27 Other digestive diseases ... ..	...	3		
28 Nephritis	4	2		
29 Puerperal sepsis ... ..	...	...
30 Other puerperal causes ... ..	...	1		
31 Congenital causes, etc.	2	1		
32 Senility	2	5		
33 Suicide	2	...		
34 Other violence... ..	4	5		
35 Other defined diseases... ..	9	2		
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	...	...

CAUSES OF DEATH		M.	F.
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)			
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...
Polionmyelitis ... ..	...	...	...
Polioencephalitis ... ..	...	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total ... Legitimate ... Illegitimate ...	5 5 0	5 5 0
Live Births	Total ... Legitimate ... Illegitimate ...	137 132 5	144 141 3
Stillbirths	Total ... Legitimate ... Illegitimate ...	5 5 ...	1 1 ...
Population		17,850	

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

An ample and continuous supply is given by the Gravesend Water Company, from a well sunk in the deep chalk which is situated in the Northfleet district. I am informed that there is an ample supply and that there is no likelihood of any shortage. There is also a good reserve in the well at Windmill Hill.

The quarterly analysis shows that the water is pure and free from pollution.

Reservoirs.

Gravesend & Milton ... One 800,000 galls. at Gravesend.
 One 220,000 galls. at Northfleet.
 One 100,000 galls. at Northfleet.

Particulars as to resources of and demand on Water Undertakings in Area :—

1. (a)	No. of dwelling houses in district as at 29th Sept., 1938	5,040
(b)	No. of other premises in district as at 29th Sept., 1938	116
(c)	Total	5,156

Public Analyst's Report on Water Samples.

Reports received on samples taken from various taps on the Gravesend & Milton Water Works Co's supply.

Date of Sample.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at		B. Coli (presumptive).	Remarks.
	37°C.	22°C.		
1938				
9th Feb.	3	0	Absent in 100 ccs.	Good Water
9th March	1	0	" "	" "
6th April	1	0	" "	" "
4th May	0	5	" "	" "
1st June	0	1	" "	" "
6th July	0	0	" "	" "
3rd Aug.	0	0	" "	" "
7th Sept.	2	0	" "	" "
5th Oct.	0	2	" "	" "
2nd Nov.	0	2	" "	" "
7th Dec.	2	0	" "	" "

Bacteriological Examination.

The bacteriological examination shows us the actual types and numbers of the various bacteria present and since a water, which might be passed as safe for drinking purposes on chemical data, may contain evidence of sewage pollution from the number and kind of bacteria in it, such an examination is of great value.

In practice the information usually required is whether the water is of sufficient bacterial purity or whether a water known to be more or less impure is being efficiently treated to render it fit for drinking purposes. Treatment consists of either storage, filtration, chlorination or ozonization. To this must be added a type of biological treatment in which protozoa inimical to bacteria are used, but this is not yet well known in this country and treatment by the other processes, either alone or in combination, is the usual procedure.

The various technical procedures carried out in a bacteriological examination usually include (1) a count of micro-organisms developing at a temperature of 22 deg. C. on ordinary standard gelatine or agar during three days' incubation. (2) A count of those organisms which develop on standard agar-agar at a temperature of 37 deg. C. during two days' incubation. (3) Qualitative and quantitative tests for *B. coli* in quantities of water up to 100 c.c. (4) Qualitative and quantitative tests for faecal and other streptococci. (5) Qualitative and quantitative tests for spores of *B. welchii*. (6) A record of the presence or absence of *B. coli* variants and special organisms such as *B. filamentosus*, etc.

In deep wells or borings the water should be, and generally is, of great natural purity. This is found to be so, even in the neighbourhood of big towns and in the London area. The strata from which these deep borings are supplied produces a practically sterile water and any water that may have come more directly from the surface is always so well filtered naturally that all micro-organisms are removed from it before it reaches the collecting basin deep underground. These waters are naturally pure and require no treatment except during those periods when work is being carried on in headings and adits. It is then usual to chlorinate the water as a temporary measure. Shallow wells can seldom, in their bacterial content, compare favourably with deep borings.

Report on samples of water received from Gravesend and Milton Water Works Co., Ltd., The following samples were received :—(a) A sample from the Old Well; (2) a sample from the Northfleet Well. Both these were, chemically and bacteriologically, of the highest quality. Both had, when cold, a moderate action on iron, an appreciable amount being kept in solution. The action of both on zinc was strong, on copper very slight and, on lead, practically none.

Analytical Details.

	<i>Old Well.</i>	<i>Northfleet Well.</i>
Appearance	Clear	Clear
Colour	Pale bluish	Pale bluish
Smell	None	None
Deposit	None	None
Phosphoric acid	Very minute trace	Very minute trace
Hardness before boiling	22 $\frac{1}{4}$ degrees Clark	20 $\frac{1}{4}$ degrees Clark.
Hardness after boiling	5 degrees.	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ degrees
Colour of residue	White	White
Behaviour on ignition	Darkens very slightly	Does not darken.

Grains per gallon.

Total dry residue	30.52	24.08
Oxygen absorbed	0.006	0.008
Chlorine	1.82	1.12
Nitric acid	3.36	1.24
Ammonia	0.0000	0.0000
Albuminoid ammonia	0.0011	0.0000
Free carbonic acid (Co ₂)	2.77	2.16

Bacteriological Examinations.

Total on gelatine per c.c.		0
B.Coli absent in	76 c.c.	76 c.c.

Action on metals when cold.

Iron	Moderate	Moderate
Zinc	Strong	Strong
Copper	Very slight	Very slight
Lead	Minute	Minute

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.**Scavenging.**

House refuse is removed at least once in seven days by men employed by the Council under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, to a suitable site owned by the Council where it is covered each day with sufficient earth. Nearly all the work is done by two motor lorries, but in some parts a horsed cart is necessary.

Sewerage.

The main drainage scheme is completed and nearly all the houses are now connected to the main sewers. In a short time the whole of the district will be sewered with the exception of a few houses which are situated in the strictly rural portion.

When discharge into the sea is not practicable, as in Northfleet, local authorities have to make some arrangement for the purification of their sewage. Whatever method is adopted, the final effluent may have to be discharged into a stream of some sort, and certain standards have been fixed which determine the degree of purification necessary. The Sewage Commissioners at the 8th Royal Commission suggested that:—

1. No sewage effluent should contain more than 3 parts of suspended solids per 100,000.
2. No sewage effluent should absorb more than 2 parts by weight of dissolved oxygen per 100,000 in 5 days at 18° C., and the stream after receiving the effluent should not absorb more than 0.4 part in the same time.

Certain important exceptions were made, depending on the size of the stream receiving the effluent.

1. When the stream is from 150 to 300 times the volume of the effluent, the standard of dissolved oxygen may be neglected, but the suspended solids should not exceed 6 parts per 100,000.
2. When the stream is from 300 to 500 times the volume of the effluent, solids in suspension should not exceed 15 parts. Ordinary sedimentation tanks would ensure this.
3. When the stream is more than 500 times the volume of the effluent all tests may be neglected, and the only treatment necessary is screening to remove the larger solid matters.

The aim of the two tests recommended by the Commission is to gauge the putrescibility and de-aerating power of the effluent and the possibility of a stream becoming silted up by an excessive amount of solids discharged into it. •“ Bad effluents in time cause a nuisance in the streams receiving them, the growth of sewage fungus is encouraged, and fish life endangered. As many of our towns draw their water supply from rivers, all precautions should be taken to prevent pollution whenever possible. The pollution of streams by trade wastes is receiving more and more attention. In a report of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 1926, it is suggested that there should be a central authority to hold the scales between the various interests concerned ; and to be charged with the preservation of one of our greatest national assets—pure water.”

Frequent samples of the effluent from the works are submitted to the County Analyst, and the following table shows the results expressed in parts of 100,000 :—

No. of sample

6

1

2

3

4

5

Date of sample

13/9/38

3/1/38

9/2/38

6/4/38

	Effluent.	Stream Water.	Effluent.	Stream Water.	Effluent.	Effluent.
Total dissolved solids	.....	.....	140.5	226.0	151.0	148.5
Total suspended solids	.....	.....	6.0	0.75	2.5	1.2
Organic suspended solids	.....	.....	5.5	0.50	2.0	0.7
Chlorine	.....	.....	41.2	85.9	38.7	40.3
Free ammonia	.....	.....	6.94	0.012	2.79	2.04
Aluminoid ammonia	.....	.....	0.75	0.002	0.88	0.34
Oxygen absorbed (acid permanganate)—						
1/4 hour	1.20	0.528	2.12	0.036	1.69	0.51
4 hours	2.07	1.11	3.54	0.058	2.43	1.12
Nitrogen as nitrates	.....	.....	0.2	0.1	2.0	3.3
" " nitrites	.....	.....	Trace	Absent	Faint trace	0.1
Dissolved oxygen requirement in 5 days	4.39	0.30	Exceeds 5.0	0.207	3.91	1.19

Remarks :—

- Sample No. 1. The effluent was somewhat turbid and it had a bad odour. The quality of the effluent is very bad.
2. The stream water shows evidence of considerable contamination with sewage matter. The quality of the stream water is unsatisfactory.
3. The effluent was turbid and it had a sewage odour. The quality of the effluent is very bad.
4. The stream water taken a mile below the effluent discharge shows some evidence of pollution. The pollution is not excessive, but, of course, the water should not be used for drinking purposes.
5. The effluent had a slight sewage odour. Its quality is not satisfactory, the dissolved oxygen requirement being excessive.
6. The quality of this effluent is satisfactory and the effluent is suitable for discharge into watercourse.

F. W. F. ARNAUD, County Analyst.

Sewage Contamination.

Water Cress.

Following communications with the County Medical Officer *re* the watercress in Ebbsfleet stream, the County Pathologist visited Northfleet on the 20th April. Together we investigated the stream from Springhead to Ebbsfleet and found watercress only in the chalk pit of the A.P.C.M., Ltd. Samples of the running water and the cress were taken with the following results :—

Description of Sample.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at	
	37°C.	22°C.
Water from water cress beds	889	13,970
Remarks : B. coli (presumptive) present in 60 c.c.s. Absent in 50 c.c.s. Further tests showed the presence of typical B. coli in 60 c.c. This water shows evidence of faecal contamination.		

Specimen of watercress. Result of examination—This water shows evidence of faecal contamination.

The reports show gross contamination and I immediately communicated with the Manager of the A.P.C.M., Ltd., asking for his co-operation in stopping the gathering of this watercress.

The following communication was received in reply :—

“ In acknowledging receipt of your letter dated 28th April, regarding the sewage contamination of the watercress and water taken from our land, I cannot help reminding you of the fact that I foresaw this danger some years ago when I was a Town Councillor and when the Sewage scheme was under consideration.

I pleaded with my colleagues at the time to pipe the sewage effluent from the Works to the river, but the Council in their wisdom decided otherwise. I pointed out that at time the inevitable danger of the Ebbsfleet Stream being polluted, bearing in mind that it is a summer playground for a large number of children.

It is almost impossible for us to keep people from trespassing upon our land. Furthermore, I am of the opinion that any notice put up by the Works would have very little practical value and I suggest that the situation would be best met by the Council putting up appropriately worded notices in connection with which we shall be only too pleased to allow them to exhibit any such notices on our property adjacent. Furthermore, as the contamination comes exclusively from the Council's Works, I feel that they should shoulder the full responsibility.

I do not want you to think that I am in any way unsympathetic, as I am only too willing to co-operate in any way, but I feel that official notices issued and put up by the Council would have much more weight and value than anything I can do.”

List of Bye-Laws in force in District.

Advertisement Regulations Act, 1925.

Cemetery.

Hackney Carriages.

New Streets and Buildings.

Nuisances.

Parks and Pleasure Grounds.

Slaughterhouses.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures.

There are no local Acts.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

All milkshops, dairies, cowsheds, bakehouses, workshops and slaughterhouses are visited at least twice a year by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

Most of the milk is imported from other districts. There is only one dairy farm in the District, which has a good water supply.

Four samples of ordinary milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, two of which were reported unsatisfactory. In one case the producer's premises were inspected, and a statutory notice was served *re* repairs, alterations, etc.; in the other case the dealer carried out certain improvements which have proved satisfactory.

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

Two samples of milk were examined by the inoculation test for the presence of Tubercle bacilli. Both samples were returned as negative.

A sample of milk submitted from Gravesend was found by inoculation test to contain tubercle bacilli, and the Veterinary Officer made an investigation at the farm of the producer. Thirty-eight cows were examined and one was found to be affected with Tuberculosis of the Udder. Samples of milk were submitted from the rest of the herd for biological examination and found negative. The animal affected was slaughtered.

Provision of Milk for School Children.

Under this Scheme the price of milk consumed in schools by young children, is reduced to one shilling per gallon, thus enabling it to be supplied to children at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for one-third of a pint, instead of 1d. as hitherto. The milk will, whenever possible, be supplied in bottles containing one-third of a pint.

The scheme continues to operate satisfactorily. During 1938, 39 samples of school milk were submitted for the bacteriological test for cleanliness; 35 were returned as satisfactory. Investigations were made at the dairy concerned in the 4 unsatisfactory samples, various recommendations were made *re* the storage and distribution of this milk.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 7 Slaughter Houses in the District, which have been regularly inspected. Your Sanitary Officers visit them at times of killing. The condition of these places is, on the whole, satisfactory.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES IN USE IN THE DISTRICT.

		In 1920	In January, 1926	In December, 1938
Registered	...	4	4	4
Licensed	...	3	3	3
Total	...	7	7	7

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<i>Cattle includ- ing Cows.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>
Number killed (if known) ...	265	43	1723	1314	3345
Number inspected ...	265	39	1505	1314	3123
All diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	4	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	—	7	31	50
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tubercu- losis ...	4.5%	—	0.5%	2.7%	1.7%
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	—	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	18	—	—	32	50
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	7.5%	—	—	2.4%	3.2% exclud- ing sheep

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

This Act is administered by the County Council, and I am indebted to Mr. W. A. Elkington, County Inspector, Dartford, for the following particulars of samples taken in the district during the year :—

<i>Description of sample.</i>	<i>No. of samples taken.</i>	<i>Result of Analysis.</i>	<i>Prosecutions.</i>
New Milk	14	Genuine	Nil.
Butter	2	„	„
Custard Powder	1	„	„
Preserved Peas	1	„	„
Ground Ginger	1	„	„
Brandy	1	„	„
Brawn	1	„	„
Mixed Pickles	1	„	„
Condensed Milk	2	„	„
Margarine	2	„	„
Coffee	1	„	„
Rice	2	„	„
Cheese	1	„	„
Cakeoma	1	„	„
Mustard	1	„	„
Flour	2	„	„
Dried Fruit	1	„	„
Barley Kernels	1	„	„
Gin	1	„	„
Cocoa	1	„	„
Vinegar	1	„	„
Lard	1	„	„
Chicken and Ham Roll	1	„	„
Tea	1	„	„
Cornflour	1	„	„
Totals	43	43	Nil.

Bakehouses.

There are 7 in the District, two of which are underground bakehouses. They have all been systematically inspected and are usually found in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are none in the District.

Swimming Bath.

There is one privately owned swimming bath in the district, owned by the Welfare Section of the A.P.C.M., Ltd. The public are allowed to use this bath, and the following report *re* construction, etc., may be of interest :—

"Cement Works Swimming Bath. This Bath was re-conditioned for the use of employees and residents of the district by the above Companies in 1927, and is situate in Hive Lane, off High Street, Northfleet. It is a tepid fresh water bath, 80ft. long, and 30ft. wide, graduating in depth from 3ft. 6ins. to 7ft. Diving boards 3ft. to 12ft., spring and fixed, are provided.

Until 1933 the water was supplied from deep wells situated near the Bath, but owing to the length of time involved in cleaning out and refilling once per week, a purification plant was installed in 1934. This plant was put in by Bell Bros., and purifies and aerates the whole of the water once every six hours.

Filtration and purification is carried out by a pressure filter and the addition of sulphate of alimuna, alkali and chlorine. An 8ft. diameter pressure filter is provided which is capable of withstanding a test of 120 pounds per square inch, the filtering medium being silver sand. Sulphate of alumina solution and alkali are added by means of pumps before filtration, the chlorine is then added in the form of solution after filtration. Aeration takes place by means of a cascade.

The sides and bottom of the Bath are cleaned daily whilst the surround is cleaned with a solution of Voxsan. Tests of the water for the purpose of regulating the dosage of chemicals are taken periodically daily.

The apparatus installed has proved exceedingly efficient, and no complaints have been received regarding the condition of the water since its installation."

Report of Sample of Water.

5th July, 1938.

Description of Sample.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at :		B. coli (presumptive)
	37° C.	22°C.	
C.25647 Water from Swimming Bath, Hive Lane, Northfleet. (Shallow end)	18	92	Present in 100ccs.
C.25646 Water from Swimming Bath Hive Lane, Northfleet. (Deep end)	24	41	Absent in 100ccs.
Remarks: C.25647. B.coli (presumptive) present in 100 ccs. Absent in 90 ccs. Further tests showed that these were not typical B. coli. Counts rather high.			
C.25647. B. coli absent in 100 ccs. Reasonably good : the count could be improved.			

E. R. JONES, Pathologist.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	98
(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	76
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	22

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	236
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	964
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	158
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	782
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	3
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	155

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	96
---	-----	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	47
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	44
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	15
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	15
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2

Number of houses demolished voluntarily	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil.
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.
4. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.	
(a) 1. Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at end of the year	37
2. Number of families dwelling therein ...	37
3. Number of persons dwelling therein ...	333
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	12
(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases	20
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil.
(e) 1 Licence was issued under Sec. 61 of the Housing Act, 1936.	

Council Estates.

The Council are the owners of three housing estates in the district, namely, the Northfleet House Estate, Wombwell Park Estate and the Perry Street Housing Estate. The number of houses erected and the dates of erection are given below :—

94 houses	.....	1926-7
80 „	.....	1932
100 „	.....	1933
18 „	.....	1936 (bungalows for aged persons)
28 „	.....	1936

The following houses were built by the Council for the purpose of rehousing tenants from Clearance Areas :—

24 houses	.....	1934 (Housing Act, 1930)
76 „	.....	1938 (Housing Act, 1936)

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

		<i>Council.</i>	<i>Others.</i>
1.	(a) No. of houses found to be infested	12	16
	(b) No of houses disinfested ...	12	16
2.	Methods employed :—		
	(a) Spraying with insecticide.		
	(b) Fumigation with “ Cimex ” sulphur block.		

In either method the woodwork in the room is loosened and a floor board removed. A second visit is made 10 days after the first disinfestation and further action taken if necessary. I am pleased to say that there has been no re-infestation of the houses treated.

3. A careful examination is made of a selected tenant's furniture and disinfestation carried out where necessary.

4. Disinfestation is always carried out by Local Authority under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

5. Tenants are advised as to the best method to stop re-infestation, soap and disinfectants are supplied free to assist tenants to thoroughly cleanse the rooms.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)	47	...	...
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	171	1	...
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises)	426	...	...
Total	644	1	Nil.

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	No. of Defects.			Number of offences in respect of which Pro-secutions were inst'd (5)
	Found (2)	Re-medied (3)	Referred to. H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	2	2	...	...
Want of ventilation ...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ...	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances ...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary { insufficient	1	1	...	...
Accom- { unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	...
modation { not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...
<i>Offences under Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of under-ground bakehouse (s. 101) ...	...	...	...	...
Other offences ...	3	3	...	...
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921). ...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	6	6	...	...

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

M. F. McDONNELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

**REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF MATERNITY AND
CHILD WELFARE CLINIC AND ANTE-NATAL CLINIC,
FOR THE YEAR, 1938.**

**To the Chairman and Members of the Northfleet Urban
District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. LANE AND GENTLEMEN,

It gives me great pleasure to report to you that your Child Welfare Clinic has completed a most successful year. The attendances during 1938 have far exceeded those of any previous year, these attendances having numbered 5,181. I can confidently say that the work done by this department of your social services has very largely contributed to the high standard of infant health in Northfleet.

The Clinics continue to be held bi-weekly—1½ hour sessions on Mondays and Thursdays—and in addition the Health Visitor is in attendance daily to assist mothers, and to dispense food. Free milk continues to be provided to necessitous cases under the Ministry of Health's Regulations. This is a tremendous help in many homes, and assures that no infant in Northfleet need suffer from malnutrition.

With the completion during the year of the new Housing Estate, it may be found necessary to change the location of your Child Welfare Centre, or alternatively, to establish a subsidiary Centre further east.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Ladies of the Committee for their great help and assistance, and the Health Visitor for her co-operation in the work of the Centre. I would also like to record my grateful thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lane and Gentlemen, for the helpful provisions you have made for the care of the children in our District.

The Ante-Natal Clinic continues to be held one day each week. I am pleased to be able to inform you that the attendances at this Clinic show great improvement on previous years; 32 Expectant Mothers came for advice during the year, the total number of attendances being 118.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lane and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
JAMES CRAWFORD, M.B., Ch.B.

REPORT OF THE HEALTH VISITOR FOR THE YEAR 1938.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. LANE AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1938.

Infant Welfare.

During the year 283 live births were registered and 4 still births. All mothers and infants are visited after the fourteenth day.

Investigations are made *re* still births and the facts reported to the Medical Officer.

Advice *re* feeding and care of the infant is given and the facilities of the clinic offered.

Clinics.

I am pleased to report that the use of the clinic has grown during the year—there being an 100% increase in attendances during the year.

It is pleasing to note that the attendances of children between the ages of 1 and 5 years have increased and I am endeavouring to secure the continual attendance of these children until school age.

The need for the greater enlightenment of the mothers by way of informal talks and demonstrations was stressed by Dr. W. S. Craig, Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, in his report after his survey of the Maternity and Child Welfare Department in Northfleet. This could be arranged by holding mothercraft classes.

Ante-Natal.

The attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinic have increased in number during the year, showing that expectant mothers are realising the values of this clinic and the care, advice, etc., given. Thanks are due to the County Midwives for their activity in advising the use of the ante-natal clinic.

Frequent visits are paid to the expectant mothers in their houses.

Foster Children.

The homes of the six foster children are visited frequently and everything has been found satisfactory in their home conditions.

Visits.

The following visits were made :—

First visits .....	.....	282
Revisits under 1 year .....	.....	1,526
„ 1 to 5 years .....	.....	1,448
Special visits .....	.....	247
Total		<hr/> 3,503 <hr/>

I am,

Your obedient Servant,
M. P. MULLENDER.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1938.

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Council Offices,
Northfleet.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Northfleet Urban
District Council.**

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my third Annual Report, which is a resume of the work carried out during the year 1938.

In commencing this report it may be of interest to outline some of the duties as laid down by the Ministry of Health. These comprise :—

- General inspection of the Urban District.
- Inspections under the Housing Acts.
- Investigation of all cases of infectious disease.
- Disinfection of all bedding, clothing and infected rooms.
- Inspection of Food Premises, such as those of Bakers, Grocers, Butchers, Fruiterers, Fishmongers and Fryers, Restaurants, Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops and Hawkers' carts.
- Inspection of Slaughterhouses, Piggeries, Stables and Offensive Trades.
- Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.
- Smoke observations.
- Inspection of Meat and other Foods.
- Sampling of drinking water, bath water, etc.
- Investigation of complaints.
- Interviewing of builders and owners of property concerning sanitary work.

Other duties are :—

- All clerical work necessary for the above.
- Administration and supervision of the Cleansing Department.

The number of complaints received during the year was 216, a number of which were of a trivial nature, and could not be dealt with under the Public Health Acts. In every case where a complaint was found to be *bona-fide*, action was duly taken.

Total number of visits made	...	...	...	3,648
Preliminary notices served	...	...	...	158
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	62

The following table gives a classified list of the nuisances and defects dealt with during the year :—

Accumulations of offensive matter	...	...	...	2
Cesspools repaired or filled	...	...	...	2
Dampness abated	...	...	...	66
Dilapidated structures	...	...	...	14
Dirty premises	...	...	...	3
Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	12
„ cleared	...	...	...	209
Defective Ceilings	...	...	...	33
„ Chimneys and flues	...	...	...	35
„ Doors and door frames	...	...	...	121
„ Door sills	...	...	...	34
„ Eavesgutters and fall pipes	...	...	...	149
„ Fireplaces, hearths, etc.	...	...	...	24
„ Floors and skirtings	...	...	...	118
„ Locks and fastenings	...	...	...	102
„ Plasterwork	...	...	...	363
„ Matchboarding	...	...	...	14
„ Pointing	...	...	...	167
„ Rendering and plinths	...	...	...	103
„ Roofs	...	...	...	161
„ Sashcords	...	...	...	87
„ Staircase structures	...	...	...	20
„ Ventilation shafts	...	...	...	10
„ Walls	...	...	...	51
„ Wash coppers	...	...	...	38
„ W.C. structures	...	...	...	11
„ Water fittings	...	...	...	39
„ Windows—lack of light or ventilation	...	...	...	63
„ Window sills, wood and stone	...	...	...	146
„ Window frames and sashes	...	...	...	224
„ Yard gullies and gully pits	...	...	...	28
„ Yard paving	...	...	...	54
Food Stores—repaired or provided	...	...	...	51
Premises limewashed	...	...	...	37
New flushing arrangements	...	...	...	4
„ Internal water supply	...	...	...	3
„ Sanitary dustbins	...	...	...	25
„ Sinks and sink waste pipes	...	...	...	56
„ Stoves for food preparation	...	...	...	26
„ „ for heating	...	...	...	51
„ W.C. pans and traps	...	...	...	6
Perished external paintwork	...	...	...	23
Rooms stripped, cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	278
Under-floor ventilation	...	...	...	64
Unlit staircases	...	...	...	41
Vermin infestation	...	...	...	13
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	56
Total number of defects dealt with during the year	...	...	...	3,237

Infection and Disinfection.

During the year 62 cases of infectious disease were investigated, viz. :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	25
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	17
Other diseases	...	...	...	...	...	20

Information gained as a result of inquiry into these cases is submitted to the Medical Officer of Health, and dealt with according to his instructions.

Disinfection is carried out by spraying the rooms with formalin and fumigating with formalin gas; infected bedding and clothing are treated with steam at the Brook Vale Depot.

During the year 106 houses and 954 articles were disinfected and 62 articles destroyed.

Food Inspection.

During the year some 3,345 animals have been slaughtered whilst 3,123 or 93.6% have been inspected. To obtain this percentage a considerable amount of evening and week-end work has been necessary. The amount of meat surrendered as unfit for human consumption is 2,768 lbs. All inspections are carried out in accordance with the Memo 62 Foods and on no occasion has it been necessary to obtain an order from a Justice of the Peace.

Inspections are made at premises where food is prepared and it has not been found necessary to take any statutory action with regard to these premises. Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which comes into operation on 1st October next, all premises where food is preserved by cooking will have to be registered; this will assist in the control of such premises.

The following table shows the diseases and details of the meat condemned.

DETAILS OF MEAT CONDEMNED DURING 1938.

DISEASE.	CATTLE								Sheep		Pigs			Weight in lbs.
	Car- cases	Heads and 'Ton- gues	Hearts	Lungs	Livers	Skirts	Joints	Joints	Offals	Car- cases	Heads	Joints	Offals	
Tuberculosis	2	5	10	11	1	2	—	—	—	—	21	—	17	1989
Abscesses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	2	32
Actinomycosis	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	158
Angiomatosis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Caseous Lymphadenitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
Cirrhosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7
Cysts and Parasitic Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	5	33
Distoma	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	35
Granular Eruption	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	16
Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*2	—	—	—	200
Necrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	19
Nephritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2
Pericarditis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	15
Pleurisy	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	45
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	10
Swine Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	149
Unsound	—	—	—	—	—	—	†2	—	—	—	1	—	—	41
Totals	2	10	11	13	5	3	2	3	4	4	22	4	20	2768

* Died before Slaughter.

† Frozen

Other Foods Condemned.

<i>Articles Condemned.</i>	<i>Reason for Condemnation.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
1. Shrimps (1 box)	Decomposition	20
2. Chicken (1)	Tuberculosis	4
3. Rabbits (3)	Coccidiosis and Emaciation	5

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are 28 persons registered for the carrying on of such businesses, viz. :—

Cowkeepers ...	...	...	...	1
Dairymen ...	...	...	...	14
Milkshops (bottled milk only)	...	...	...	10
Sterilized milk (wholesale)	...	...	...	3

Designated Milk.

Three dairymen are licensed to sell " Certified " milk (bottled outside the district), and 1 " Pasteurised " milk.

Bakehouses.

Thirty seven visits were made to the 7 bakehouses on the register, limewashing is carried out regularly and I am pleased to report that the general cleanliness is good.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

During the year, 54 tins of poison were distributed to persons for premises where traces of rats were in evidence. Advice and caution as to the laying of baits are given in each case.

Poisoned baits and Cyanogas are regularly used at the refuse tip, the large number of banks and ditches surrounding the tip making the extermination of rats a difficult and constant task.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 154.

Under the above section, two [successful prosecutions were taken against persons exchanging toys and other articles for rags, etc., from children.

Caravans, Tents and Sheds.

An application for the licensing of a site for caravans was received and refused and there now remains only one permanent caravan site. This site which is exclusively used by Members of the Showmen's Guild is supplied with water by means of stand pipes and the conveniences, separate for males and females, are connected to the sewers. Sixty-one visits were made to the site during the year and no nuisance noted.

Stables.

During the year, 38 visits were made to premises *re* the keeping of animals. Many householders still keep chickens, etc., in their yards, and advice was given in a number of cases *re* cleanliness and the danger of rats.

Shops Acts.

It was not found possible to visit every shop in the district under the above Acts. 136 visits were made, and notices were served *re* insufficient sanitary accommodation, lighting and ventilation in 2 cases.

Smoke Abatement.

Public Health Act, 1936.

Under the above Act, observations were kept on twelve occasions. The observations were of half an hour duration, and on two occasions it was found necessary to draw the attention of managers of factories to the fact that black smoke or grit was emitted in such quantities as to be a nuisance.

In both cases the manager in question took action to prevent the recurrence of the nuisance.

A coal conveyor which caused clouds of dust has been adequately shielded.

Drain Testing.

The water test is imposed on all new drainage work in connection with alterations to present systems or in the case of new houses. 276 tests were made during the year, while 370 visits were paid to work in progress.

Housing Acts.

During the year, the work under the above Acts has progressed favourably. The number of houses rendered fit exceeds 200 whilst over 900 visits were made for inspections and re-inspections. Many of the owners have accepted a fair standard of housing requirements, but it is to be regretted that some opposition is still met with as regards the standard of housing accommodation for the working classes. One of the main difficulties met with is the builder who estimates a low price for work to be carried out. This usually necessitates considerable correspondence, interviews, etc., before it is possible to state that the repairs have been satisfactorily carried out.

The rehousing of tenants from Clearance Areas was commenced at the end of the year, and it is hoped that I shall be able to report the completion of this work next year.

The number of overcrowded families has increased owing to the children reaching adult age. A full report of the position was placed before the Council, and the erection of houses for the abatement of overcrowding decided upon.

Cleansing Department.

The above department was formed in October, 1936, under my direction and supervision. The duties undertaken by the department are :—

House and trade refuse collection.

„ „ „ „ disposal.

Street cleansing.

Street gully emptying.

Cesspool emptying.

The staff consists of 2 motor drivers, 17 labourers and a foreman, divided as follows :—

7 Street sweepers.

4 labourers and 1 motor driver—No. 1 gang) House refuse

3 labourers and 1 motor driver—No. 2 gang) collection.

2 labourers and hired haulage—No. 3 gang—House refuse collection, gully emptying, cesspool emptying, and extra help on tip.

1 labourer—Refuse disposal.

Refuse Collection.

The weekly collection of refuse has been maintained throughout the district with the exception of the rural area where the period of collection is fortnightly. The number of bins emptied was 264,207 and the weight of refuse collected 6,274 tons.

There has been a general increase in costs owing to the increased wages paid to the staff. The nett cost being 7s. 8d. per ton.

During the year the Vulcan refuse collector which had given good service since 1930, was replaced.

Refuse Disposal.

Controlled tipping is the method employed for the disposal of refuse ; the cost per ton being 1s. 3³/₄d. The present tip is nearly covered and efforts were made to secure another suitable site but without success. It is surprising the opposition one meets when various sites are suggested especially when it is possible to prove that controlled tipping properly carried out causes no nuisance.

The weight of waste paper salvaged from the refuse amounted to 35 tons and was sold for over £40.

Street Cleansing.—The decision to divide the area into seven districts, with each man responsible for his own district, has proved successful. The men take a distinct pride in the condition of their areas. During the year litter bins were installed on lamp posts, etc., in various streets, and it is estimated that the Council's share of the advertising rights will be £10 per annum.

Gully Emptying.—Horses and tumbers are still used in this service, owing to the small number of gullies and their positions. By allocating two days per week to this work, it has been found possible to clear the gullies approximately every six or seven weeks. During the year, 2,513 gullies were cleared, at a cost of £154/17/0, equal to a cost of 1/2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per gully. This compares very favourably with the cost in other districts.

Cesspool Emptying.—The motor vacuum tank was hired on 12 occasions during the year, and 54 cesspools emptied, 77 loads being removed. The total cost amounted to £81, equivalent to approximately £1 1s. od. per load.

The following tables show the details of the work of the Cleansing Department, with the cost allocated to each branch. Comparison with last year's cost shows an increase of £150 with, in my opinion, an added efficiency. To further increase this efficiency without increased cost, I appeal to the public to assist, firstly by keeping the contents of their dustbins dry, secondly by separating their waste paper and depositing it by the side of the bin, thirdly by using the litter bins provided in the streets for their proper use, and lastly by remembering that the collectors are men, not machines. They have difficult, unpleasant and arduous work to carry out, and any complaints should be addressed to myself and not to the workmen.

CLEANSING SERVICES.
 Tables showing Costs for the year ending 31st March, 1939.

ITEM.	Revenue Account.	I. Collection with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded.		II. Disposal with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded.		Total with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded.																																																																	
		Included.		Excluded.		Included.																																																																	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.																																																																
A	Gross Expenditure ...	2405	1 4	2320	1 4	2860	2 6																																																																
B	" Income ...	4	3 6	4	3 6	46	3 2																																																																
C	Nett Cost ...	2400	17 10	2315	17 10	2813	19 4																																																																
<i>Unit Costs.</i>																																																																							
D	Nett Cost per ton ...	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.																																																																
E	Nett cost per 1,000 population ...	7	8	7	4 ³ / ₄	8	11 ³ / ₄																																																																
F	Nett cost per 1,000 houses or premises from which refuse is collected ...	133	7 8	128	15 5	156	6 5																																																																
<i>Rate Poundage.</i>																																																																							
G	Nett cost, equivalent rate in the £ ...	5.459d.		.94d.		6.409d.																																																																	
H	Percentage of G to total rate in the £ ...	3.79%		.65%		4.44%																																																																	
<table> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th><th colspan="2">9 Method of Collection—</th><th colspan="2">No. of Vehicles.</th><th colspan="2">Percentage of refuse collected.</th></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="2">Horse Vehicles</td><td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="2">16.6</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="2">Mechanical Vehicles</td><td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="2">83.4</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td><th colspan="2">10 Method of Disposal—</th><th colspan="2"></th><th colspan="2"></th></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="2">Crude tipping</td><td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="2">Nil</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="2">Controlled tipping</td><td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="2">100%</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="2">(i. e. on lines of Ministry's precautions for tipping)</td><td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="2"></td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="2">11 Average length of haul to point of disposal</td><td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="2">1¹/₄ miles.</td></tr> </table>										9 Method of Collection—		No. of Vehicles.		Percentage of refuse collected.				Horse Vehicles				16.6				Mechanical Vehicles				83.4				10 Method of Disposal—								Crude tipping				Nil				Controlled tipping				100%				(i. e. on lines of Ministry's precautions for tipping)								11 Average length of haul to point of disposal				1 ¹ / ₄ miles.	
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		11 Average length of haul to point of disposal				1 ¹ / ₄ miles.																																																																	
1	Total refuse collected in tons (estimated)	6,274																																																																					
2	Population ...	17,850																																																																					
3	Area (Statute Acres) ...	3,770																																																																					
4	Weight in cwts. (per 1,000 population) per day (365 days to year) ...	19																																																																					
5	Number of houses and premises	5,130																																																																					
6	Rateable Value ...	£106,869																																																																					
7	Produce of a penny rate ...	£439																																																																					
8	Total rates in the £ ...	12/-																																																																					

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
No. of days worked.	No. of loads removed.	Estimated tonnage.	Gross Cost.	Unit Costs per ton.	per load.	Per working day.	Net Cost equivalent rate in £.	Percentage of H to total rate in £.
12	77	248	£81 3 7	5/8½d.	£1 1 1	£6 15 3	.104d.	.127%

STREET CLEANSING AND GULLY EMPTYING.

County Roads.		Scavenging.		Gully emptying.		Gross Cost.			
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		
London Road	...	269	7 9	11	14 6	281	2 3	1. No. of Gullies emptied	...
Hall Road	...	149	17 5	8	14 9	158	12 2	2. Net Cost per Gully	...
Dover Road	...	117	16 7	3	6 9	121	3 4	3. No. of Loads removed	...
Springhead Road	...	55	11 8	7	12 4	63	4 0	4. Net Cost per Load	...
Totals	...	£592	13 5	£31	8 4	£624	1 9	5. Net Cost equivalent rate in the £	...
Other Roads	...	£575	16 5	£123	8 8	£699	5 1	6. Percentage of No. 5 to total rate in the £	...
Total Cost	...	£1,168	9 10	£154	17 0	£1,323	6 10		1.736%

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. M. F. McDonnell, the Chairman and Members of the Council and Health Committee, for their kindness, the officers and staff at the Council offices for their assistance, and also Mr. E. H. C. Wadhams, Additional Sanitary Inspector, the foreman and workmen of the Cleansing Department for their loyal support and willingness to accept any innovation I have introduced.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

G. CUNLIFFE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Cleansing Superintendent.

